

BOOK RECEIVED

OLSON, RICHARD K. and THOMAS A. LYSON, eds. 1999. *Under the Blade. The Conversion of Agricultural Landscapes*. (ISBN 0-8133-3597-3, pb; 0-8133-3596-5, hbk). Westview Press, 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, CO 80301-2877. \$25.00 (pbk). 459 Pp. 15 Figures.

Under the Blade is about land use, rural land use in the United States. It is about farms and their conservation. From the back cover: "Under the Blade: The Conservation of Agricultural Landscapes proposes essential principles for sustainable land management. Its seven orienting chapters examine the loss of farmland and other rural lands from the interacting perspectives of law, economics, landscape characteristics, population growth, social and political forces, ethics, and aesthetics. The chapters present as well tools and strategies for preserving farmland and guiding rural development. The application of these tools is illustrated by 22 case studies of towns and regions throughout the United States, each posing variations of challenge, response, and degree of success (or failure)."

Contents include:

List illustrations	Washington, D.C. suburban counties
Foreward	Fauquier County, Virginia
Preface and Acknowledgments	Albemarle County, Virginia
About the Contributors	Tillery, North Carolina
Introduction	Lake County, Florida
Farmland Loss in America	Ohio
A Landscape Perspective on Farmland Conservation	DeKalb County, Illinois
The Law of the Land	Waukesha County, Wisconsin
The Economics of Farmland Conversion	Minnesota
Preserving Community Agriculture in a Global Economy	Lincoln, Nebraska (school placement)
Ethics and Aesthetics in the Loss of Farmland	Lincoln, Nebraska (Antelope Commons development)
A National Policy for Farmland Preservation	Northwest Arkansas
Case Studies	Austin, Texas
Swanton, Vermont	Rocky Mountain region
Tompkins County, New York	Western Washington
Southeast Pennsylvania	Oregon
	Fresno County, California
	The Oxnard Plain, California
	Norway